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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 24 December 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a Statement of the European Community and its Member States on the future status of Russia and other former Soviet Republics, issued on 23 December 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) J. De MARCHANT ET d'ANSEMBOURG
Acting Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement on the future status of Russia and other former Soviet Republics, issued at Brussels on 23 December 1991

The European Community and its member States have taken note with satisfaction of the decision of the participants at the meeting in Alma Ata on 21 December 1991 to form a Commonwealth of independent States.

They note that the international rights and obligations of the former USSR, including those under the United Nations Charter, will continue to be exercised by Russia. They welcome the Russian Government's acceptance of these commitments and responsibilities and in this capacity will continue their dealings with Russia, taking account of the modification of her constitutional status.

They are prepared to recognize the other republics constituting the Commonwealth as soon as they receive assurances from those republics that they are ready to fulfil the requirements contained in the "guidelines on the recognition of new states in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union", adopted by Minsiters on 16 December 1991.

In particular, they expect to receive assurances that these republics will fulfil the international obligations ensuing for them from treaties and agreements concluded by the Soviet Union, including the ratification and full implementation of the CFE Treaty by the republics to which that Treaty applies, and that they will ensure single control over nuclear weapons and their non-proliferaton.

The Presidency will approach the Republics concerned in order to obtain from them the required assurances in good time for recognition to be effective as from the moment the dissolution of the Soviet Union enters into force.